

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER  
(Large Entity)

Docket No.  
28542.00059

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111 and 37 C.F.R. 1.53 is the patent application of:

Paul W. Romig and Robert J. Kellar

For: **METHODS AND CONTAINERS FOR PREVENTING CONTAMINATION OF PRODUCTS FROM PRODUCT LABELS AND ADHESIVES**

Enclosed are:

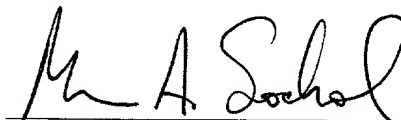
- ☒ Certificate of Mailing with Express Mail Mailing Label No. **EL515155775US**
- ☒ **5 informal** sheets of drawings.
- ☐ A certified copy of a \_\_\_\_\_ application.
- ☒ Declaration ☒ Signed. ☐ Unsigned.
- ☒ Power of Attorney
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Other: **Assignment & Rec. Cover Sheet, Check for \$40.00, Gen. Auth./Request to Petition for Extensions of Time**

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	22	- 20 =	2	x \$18.00	\$36.00
Indep. Claims	5	- 3 =	2	x \$78.00	\$156.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$690.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$882.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$882.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **05-0150** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: **February 24, 2000**



Signature

Marc A. Sockol, Reg. No. 40,823  
Attorney for Applicants  
Graham & James LLP  
600 Hansen Way  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1043  
Tel: (650) 856-6500  
Fax: (650) 856-3619

CC:

**APPLICATION FOR  
UNITED STATES PATENT  
IN THE NAME**

**of**

**PAUL W. ROMIG AND ROBERT J. KELLAR**

**for**

**METHODS AND CONTAINERS FOR PREVENTING  
CONTAMINATION OF PRODUCTS FROM PRODUCT  
LABELS AND ADHESIVES**

**DOCKET NO. 28542.00059**

**Please direct communications to:**

**GRAHAM & JAMES LLP**

**600 Hansen Way**

**Palo Alto, CA 94304-1043**

**(650) 856-6500**

**Express Mail Number: EL515155775US**

METHODS AND CONTAINERS FOR PREVENTING CONTAMINATION OF  
PRODUCTS FROM PRODUCT LABELS AND ADHESIVES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to containers, and more particularly provides methods and containers for preventing contamination of food products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, biological products and other products that are preferably kept pure from product labels and adhesives.

10 2. Description of the Background Art

Food products, medical products, pharmaceutical products and biological products are typically packaged, transported and sold in semi-permeable containers, such as plastic (e.g., polyethylene, polypropylene or other polymer) bottles or cellophane-wrapped Styrofoam plates. Examples of such products include prepackaged meats, prepackaged dairy, prepackaged fish, blood, IV fluids, ear drops, eye drops, and pills. Other examples of such products include biological reagents such as restrictive enzymes, antibodies, etc., and liquid biological, infusible and injectible products such as dermal patches, etc. Examples of such containers include food containers, blood bags, IV bags, ear drop containers, eye drop containers, pill containers, etc.

To identify the product contents within the semi-permeable containers, manufacturers, supermarkets, pharmacists, doctors, scientists or other packagers place labels onto the semi-permeable containers typically using adhesives.

25 Unfortunately, label inks and adhesives and other label materials migrate through the semi-permeable container and contaminate the product contents. This problem is especially prevalent in the pharmaceutical industry, where the pharmaceutical products are stored for longer periods of time. Therefore, methods

and containers for preventing contamination of products packaged in semi-permeable containers from product labels and adhesives are needed.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5           The present invention provides methods for placing a metallic layer between printing and a semi-permeable container to protect the product contents from printed layer adhesives or inks, and thus also provides safe containers. Accordingly, the printing can be placed directly onto the metallic layer or onto a separate layer which is placed over the metallic layer.

10           In one embodiment, the method comprises obtaining a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface, obtaining a metallic layer, placing the metallic layer against the external surface, and melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer. The metallic layer may include metallized polyester such as Mylar® metallized polyester manufactured by E.I.  
15   duPont de Nemours and Company

          In another embodiment, the method comprises obtaining a semi-permeable container having an external surface, obtaining a metallic layer, placing polymeric material between the external surface and the metallic layer, and melting at least a portion of the polymeric material.

20           In yet another embodiment, the method comprises obtaining a semi-permeable container having an external surface and having a metallic layer bonded to the external surface, and coupling a printed layer to the metallic layer.

          The method of the present invention advantageously places a protective metallic layer onto semi-permeable container to prevent label inks and adhesives  
25   from migrating into the container. Thus, the protective layer helps to prevent contamination of the product contents.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a first system for bonding a printed metallic label to a semi-permeable container, in accordance with the present invention;

5        FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the safe container having the printed metallic label bonded thereon, in accordance with the first system;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a second system for bonding a printed metallic label to a semi-permeable container, in accordance with the present invention;

10       FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating a third system for bonding a printed metallic label to a semi-permeable container, in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the safe container having the printed metallic label bonded thereon, in accordance with the second or third system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The following description is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention, and is provided in the context of a particular application and its requirements. Various modifications to the embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments and applications without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown, but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles, features and teachings disclosed herein.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a first system 100 for bonding a printed metallic label 120 to a semi-permeable polymeric container 105, such as to a blood bag, IV bag, a food package, a pharmaceutical bottle, an eye drop bottle, etc., in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. System 100 includes a bonding machine 110 for receiving the printed metallic label 120 and the semi-permeable polymeric container 105, and for bonding the printed metallic label 120 to the semi-permeable polymeric container 105 to create a "safe" container 115. Because of the techniques taught herein, the safe container 115 is safe for packaging products intended to be kept pure. As stated above, such products may be pharmaceutical, medical, biological, ingestible or the like. Examples of such products may include prepackaged meats, prepackaged dairy, prepackaged fish, blood, IV fluids, ear drops, eye drops, and pills. Other examples of such products may include biological reagents such as restrictive enzymes, antibodies, etc., and liquid biological, infusible and injectible products such as dermal patches, etc. Still other examples of such products may include any product intended to be ingested by, injected into, removed from, applied to, or come into contact with humans or animals.

The printed metallic label 120 preferably includes a metallic layer, i.e., a metal (e.g., aluminum, tin, gold, silver, copper, etc.) foil or metalized material such

as metallized polyester (e.g., Mylar® metallized polyester manufactured by E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company). The printed metallic label 120 includes printing on one side (i.e., the printed side) and no printing on the other side (i.e., the unprinted side). As stated above in the Description of the Background Art, the  
5 typical semi-permeable polymeric container 105 is typically formed from a polymeric material such as polyethylene or polypropylene.

The bonding machine 110 places the unprinted side of the printed metallic label 120 onto the typical semi-permeable polymeric container 105, and inductively, directly, radiantly, convectively, conductively, frictionally, or  
10 otherwise heats the label 120 and thus the external surface of the polymeric container 105 to a temperature between, for example, 80 and 150 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature selected melts the polymeric material of the external surface of the container 105, preferably without deforming the shape of the polymeric container 105. By melting at least a portion of the external surface of  
15 the container 105 beneath the printed metallic label 120, the label 120 fuses to the container 105, thereby creating the safe container 115.

Any conventional bonding machines 110 can be used. The bonding machine 110 may include a labeler head (not shown) for receiving uncut printed metallic label material, a cutter (not shown) for cutting the uncut printed metallic  
20 label material to form the label 120, a vacuum cylinder (not shown) for holding the printed metallic label 120, levers (not shown) for moving the printed metallic label 120 and for placing the label 120 against the container 105, and heating elements (not shown) for heating the label 120 and/or container 105 to fuse them together. Alternatively, the bonding machine 110 may use cut labels (not shown).

25 It will be appreciated that the bonding machine 110 may heat the label 120 to temperatures outside the example range, so long as the material of the polymeric container 105 and printed metallic label 120 fuse. It will be further appreciated that the printing on the printed side of the printed metallic label 120 preferably

withstands heat. It will be further appreciated that other methods of heating the external surface of the container 105 beneath the printed metallic label 120, such as ovens, heating elements, etc., can alternatively or additionally be used. It will be appreciated that only a portion of the external surface beneath the label need be  
 5 formed of polymeric material. It will be still further be appreciated that, after heating, the safe container 115 can be allowed to cool normally, can be moved to a cold chamber, or can be dipped into cold liquid. Still further, the printing on the metallic label 120 can be placed onto the metallic label 120 after being fused to the container 105.

10 In an alternative embodiment, the bonding machine 110 can place a polymeric bonding agent, such as polyethylene or polypropylene, between the container 105 and the printed metallic layer 120 before heating to facilitate the bonding process. The polymeric bonding agent may have a melting temperature lower than that of the semi-permeable polymeric container 105, so that, during the  
 15 heating process, the container 105 is not deformed, burned or in any way compromised. In this alternative embodiment, the polymeric bonding agent will adhere to the container 105, and the printed metallic layer 120 will adhere to the polymeric bonding agent.

It will be appreciated that the techniques described above do not use  
 20 adhesives, and provide a barrier between the printed layer and the semi-permeable polymeric container 105, thereby protecting the contents from label contaminants.

FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view 200 of the safe container 115 having the printed metallic label 120 attached to the semi-permeable container 105, in accordance with the first system 100. Although not shown, one skilled in  
 25 the art will recognize that a polymeric bonding agent may be disposed between the printed metallic label 120 and the semi-permeable polymeric container 105, as described above.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a second system 300 for bonding a printed metallic label 325 to the semi-permeable container 301, in accordance with the present invention. The system 300 includes a printed metallic label generating machine 320 coupled to a bonding machine 330 (which is similar to the bonding machine 110 of FIG. 1).

The printed metallic label generating machine 320 receives a printed layer 305, a metallic layer 310 and a bonding agent 315, and bonds them together to form the printed metallic label 325. In one embodiment, the printed metallic label generating machine 320 applies polymeric material as the bonding agent 315 between the printed layer 305 and the metallic layer 310, and melts the polymeric material to fuse the printed layer 305 to the metallic layer 310. In another embodiment, the printed metallic label generating machine 320 applies an adhesive such as conventional glue or laminate as the bonding agent. Accordingly, after the printed metallic label 325 is fused to the semi-permeable container 301, the metallic layer 310 will prevent the adhesive from contacting the semi-permeable container 301. In yet another embodiment, the printed layer 305 can be just ink, paint, graphite, or other printing material, and can be placed directly onto the metallic layer 310. In still another embodiment, the printed metallic label generating machine 320 can be a human holding an ink pen or other writing utensil.

The bonding machine 330 receives the printed metallic label 325, the semi-permeable container 301 and, possibly, polymeric bonding agent 335, and bonds them together to form the safe container 340. The bonding machine 330 places the polymeric bonding agent 335, i.e., polymeric material, between the metallic layer 310 of the printed metallic label 325 and the external surface of the semi-permeable container 301, and melts the polymeric bonding agent 335. The metallic layer 310 and the semi-permeable container 301 fuse together, thereby creating the safe container 340. Alternatively, no polymeric bonding agent 335

need be used. That is, the bonding machine 330 can melt the external surface of the container 301 to bond the printed metallic label 325 thereto.

One skilled in the art will recognize that, if the bonding agent 315 includes polymeric material, its melting temperature may be selected to be higher than that of the polymeric bonding agent 335. Thus, the bonding machine 330 can melt the polymeric bonding agent 335 between the container 301 and the label 325 without melting the polymeric bonding agent 315 within the label 325. A cross-sectional view of the resulting safe container 340 is illustrated and described with reference to FIG. 5.

Although not shown, one skilled in the art will recognize that many other alternatives are possible. For example, the bonding machine 330 can sandwich the semi-permeable container 301 to the bonding agent 315 to the metallic layer 310 to the polymeric bonding agent 335 to the printed layer 305, and can heat them in a single step. Accordingly, only a single machine would be needed. Also, if the heat is transferred from the outside layer inward, the first polymeric bonding agent 315 may be selected to have a lower melting temperature than that of the second polymeric bonding agent 335, since an outside layer would get hotter than an inside layer. One skilled in the art will recognize that the same polymeric bonding agent 315/335 could alternatively be used.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating a third system 400 for bonding a metallic layer 310 and a printed layer 305 to a semi-permeable container 301, in accordance with the present invention. The system 400 includes a metallic layer bonding machine 405 and a printed layer bonding machine 410.

The metallic layer bonding machine 405 receives the metallic layer 310, the semi-permeable container 301 and polymeric bonding agent 335, places the polymeric bonding agent 335 between the metallic layer 310 and the semi-permeable container 301, and melts the polymeric bonding agent 335. Fusing the metallic layer 310 to the semi-permeable container 301 creates a safe “generic”

container 415, which can be shipped to end-packagers, e.g., pharmacists, supermarkets, etc. It will be appreciated that the metallic layer bonding machine 405 and the printed layer bonding machine 410 need not be at the same location.

The printed layer bonding machine 410 receives the safe generic container 415, the printed layer 305 and the bonding agent 315, and bonds the printed layer 305 to the metallic layer 310, thereby generating the safe container 115. As with reference to FIG. 3, the bonding agent 315 may be adhesive or polymeric material. If the bonding agent 315 is polymeric material, then the printed layer bonding machine 410 melts the bonding agent 315. It will be appreciated that the polymeric bonding agent 315 may be selected to have a melting temperature lower than the polymeric bonding agent 335. If the bonding agent is adhesive, then the metallic layer 310 already bonded to the semi-permeable container 105 will act as a barrier to prevent contamination of its contents.

It will be appreciated that, in this system 400, the application of the printed layer can be performed by a human (i.e., the printed layer bonding machine 410 can be a human). It will be further appreciated that the printed layer can be just ink, paint, graphite, or other printing material, and can be placed directly onto the metallic layer 310 of the safe generic container 415. No bonding agent 315 would be needed. It will still be further appreciated that the adhesive may be predisposed on the printed layer 305.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view 500 of the safe container 115 having the printed metallic label 325 attached to the semi-permeable container 105, in accordance with the second system 300 or third system 400. More particularly, the cross-sectional view 500 illustrates the printed layer 305 fused to a bonding agent 315, e.g., adhesive or polymeric material, in turn fused to the metallic layer 310. As illustrated the printed layer 305, bonding agent 315 and metallic layer 310 form the printed metallic label 325. The cross-sectional view 500 further illustrates the metallic layer 310 fused to a polymeric bonding agent 335 in turn fused to the

semi-permeable container 105.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention is by way of example only, and other variations and modifications of the above-described embodiments and methods are possible in light of the foregoing teaching. The embodiments described herein are not intended to be exhaustive or limiting. The present invention is limited only by the following claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:  
2 obtaining a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface;  
3 obtaining a metallic layer;  
4 placing the metallic layer against the external surface; and  
5 melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 plastic bottle.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 plastic pharmaceutical bottle.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes an  
2 IV bag.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 plastic-wrapped food package.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling a printed layer onto the  
2 metallic layer.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the metallic layer includes metallized  
2 polyester.

- 1 8. A safe container, comprising:  
2 a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface; and  
3 a metallic layer bonded directly to the external surface.
- 1 9. The safe container of claim 8, further comprising a printed layer coupled  
2 onto the metallic layer.
- 1 10. The safe container of claim 8, wherein the metallic layer includes  
2 metallized polyester.
- 1 11. A method, comprising:  
2 obtaining a semi-permeable container having an external surface;  
3 obtaining a metallic layer;  
4 placing polymeric material between the external surface and the metallic  
5 layer; and  
6 melting at least a portion of the polymeric material.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 plastic bottle.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 pharmaceutical bottle.
- 1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes an  
2 IV bag.
- 1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a  
2 food package.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising coupling a printed layer onto  
2 the metallic layer.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the melting temperature of the polymeric  
2 material is less than the melting temperature of the semi-permeable container.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein the metallic layer includes metallized  
2 polyester.

1 19. A safe container, comprising:  
2 a semi-permeable container having an external surface;  
3 polymeric material bonded to the external surface; and  
4 a metallic layer bonded to the polymeric material.

1 20. The safe container of claim 19, further comprising a printed layer coupled  
2 to the metallic layer.

1 21. The safe container of claim 19, wherein the metallic layer includes  
2 polyester.

1 22. A method, comprising:  
2 obtaining a semi-permeable container having an external surface and having  
3 a metallic layer bonded to the external surface; and  
4 coupling a printed layer to the metallic layer.

METHODS AND CONTAINERS FOR PREVENTING CONTAMINATION OF  
PRODUCTS FROM PRODUCT LABELS AND ADHESIVES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- 5           A method places a metallic layer between printing and a semi-permeable container to protect the contents of the container from printed layer inks and adhesives. The method comprises obtaining a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface, obtaining a metallic layer, placing the metallic layer against the external surface, and melting at least a portion of the external surface
- 10   beneath the metallic layer. The metallic layer may include metallized polyester. A safe container comprises a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface, and a metallic layer bonded directly to the external surface

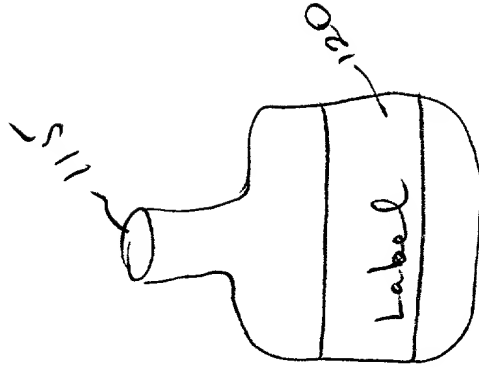
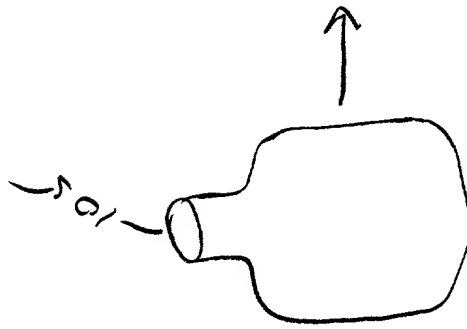
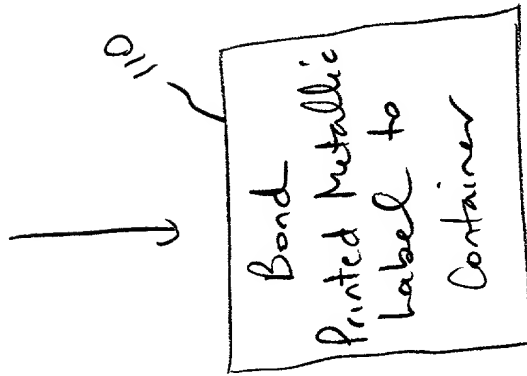
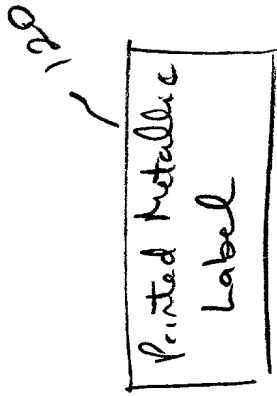


FIG. 1

5200

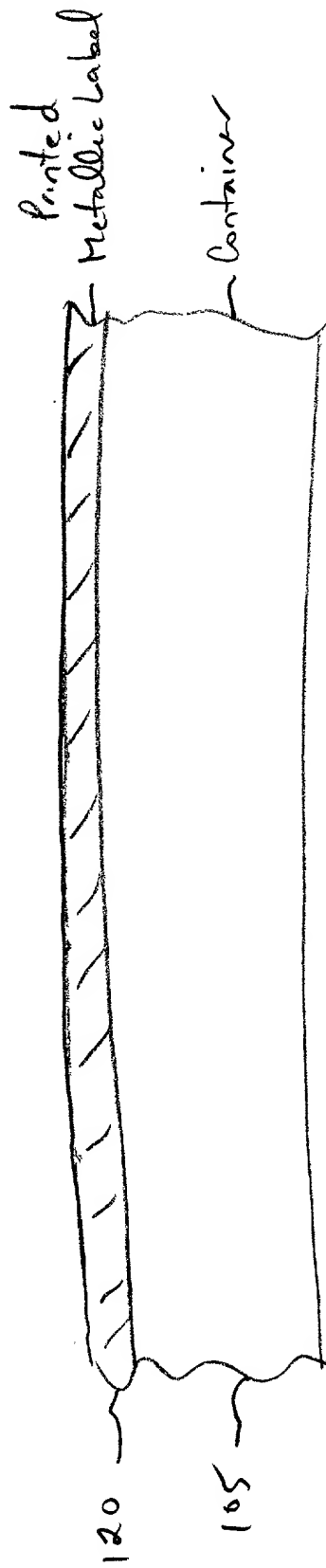
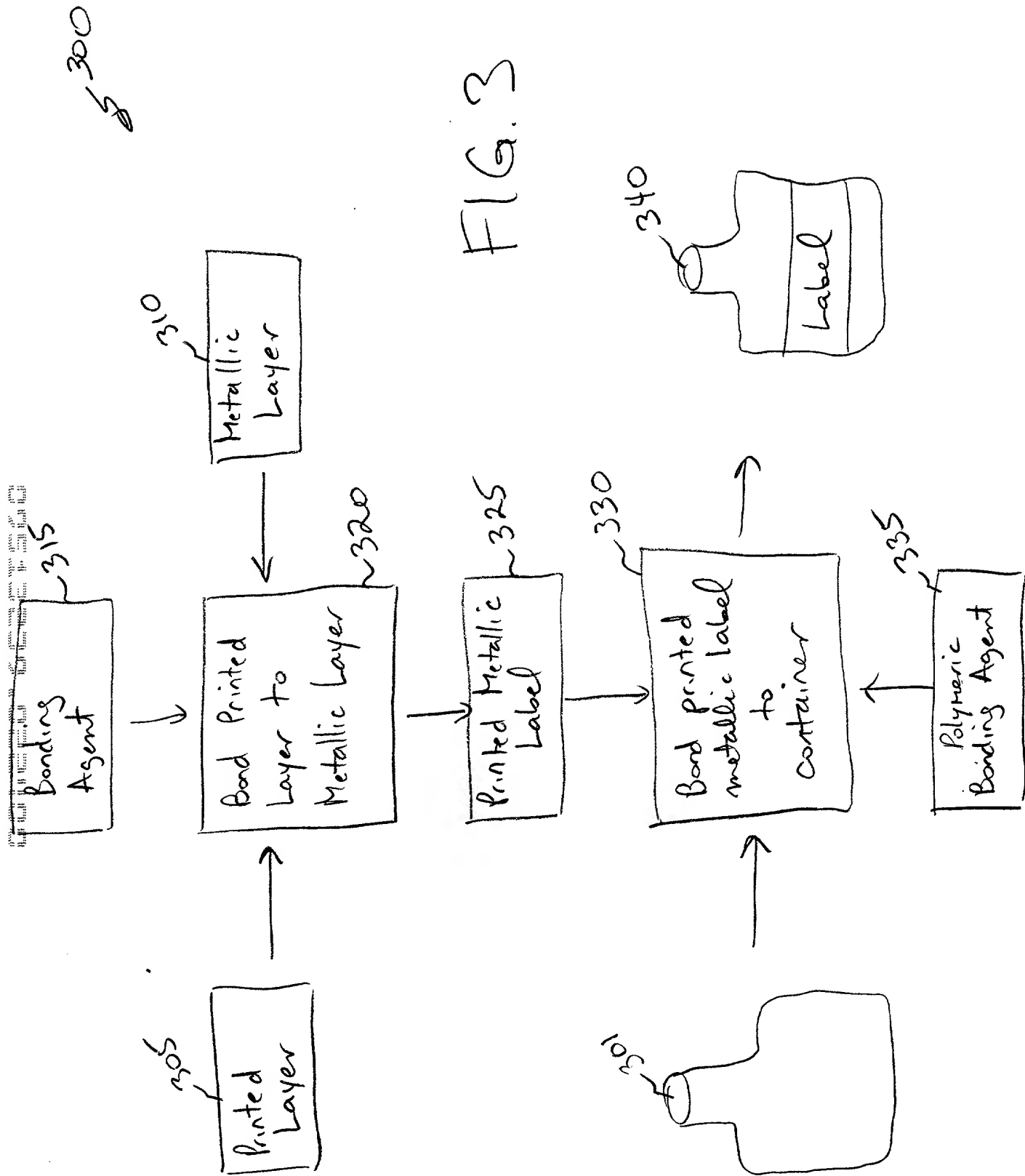


FIG. 2

FIG. 3



400

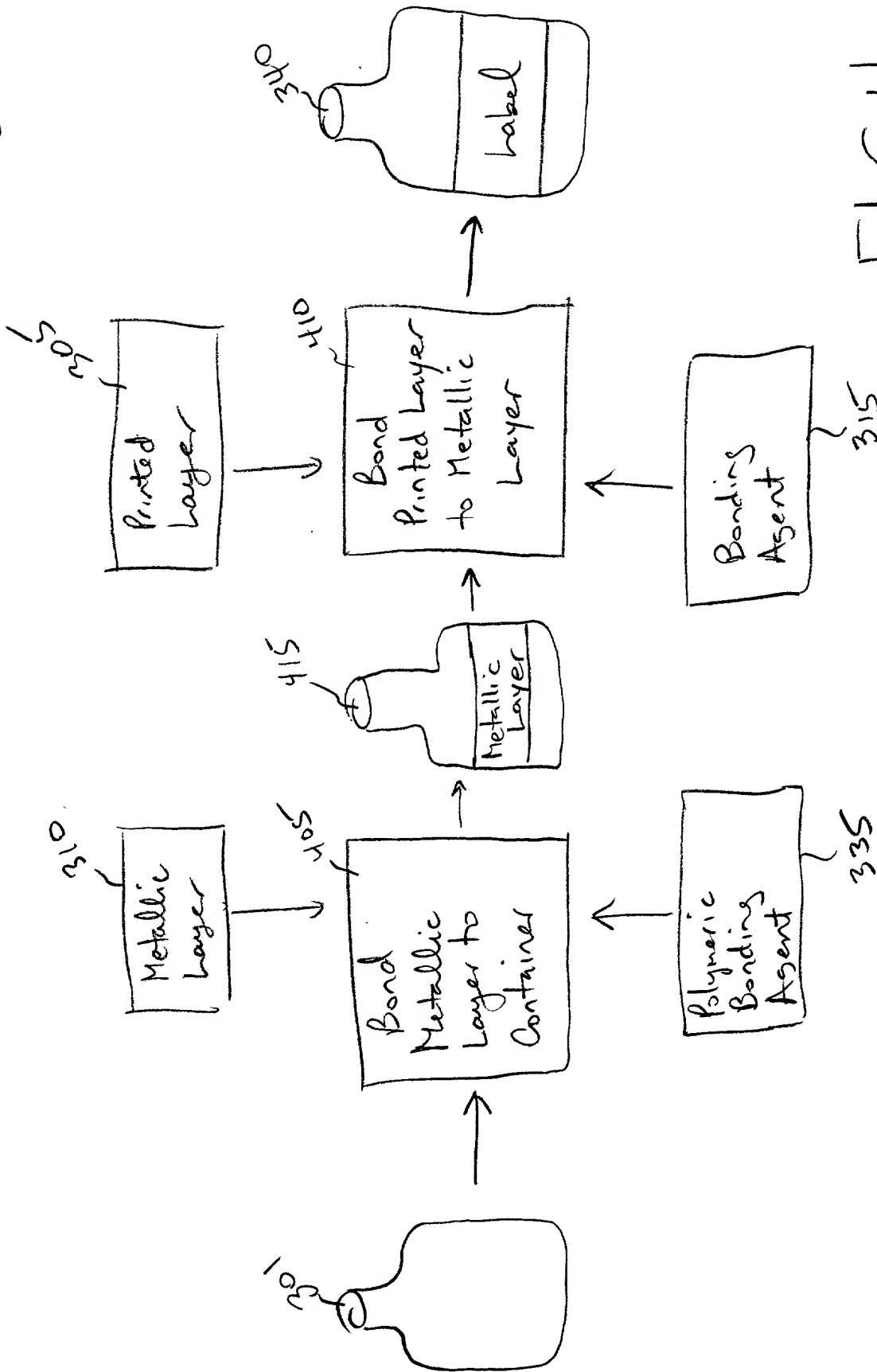


FIG. 4

500

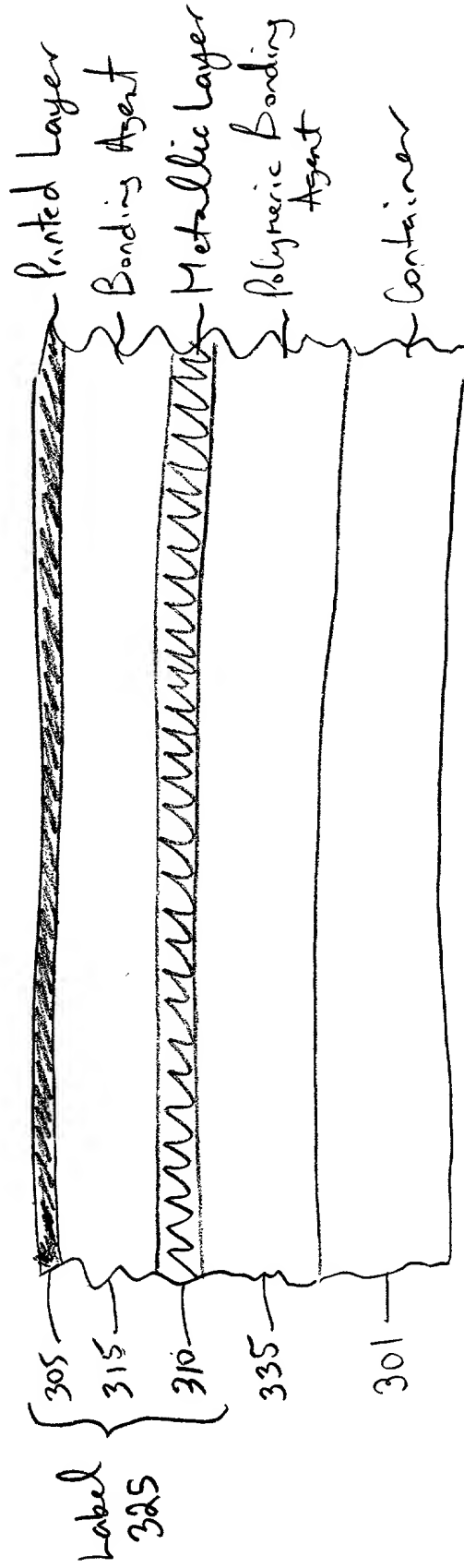


FIG. 5

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EL515155775US

## COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION &amp; POWER OF ATTORNEY

DOCKET NO.: 28542.00059

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

The information given herein is true:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;  
 I BELIEVE I AM THE ORIGINAL, FIRST AND SOLE INVENTOR (if only one name is listed below) OR AN ORIGINAL,  
 FIRST AND JOINT INVENTOR (if plural names are listed below) OF THE SUBJECT MATTER WHICH IS CLAIMED AND  
 FOR WHICH A PATENT IS SOUGHT ON THE INVENTION ENTITLED:

METHODS AND CONTAINERS FOR PREVENTING CONTAMINATION  
OF PRODUCTS FROM PRODUCT LABELS AND ADHESIVES

the specification of which (check only one item below):

- ☒ is attached hereto;
- ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States  
 Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).
- ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as PCT International  
 Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 and was amended under PCT Article 19 \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN 12 (6 if a Design) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THIS APPLICATION THE PRIORITY OF WHICH WHERE PERMITTED IS HEREBY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. SEC. 119.

COUNTRY	APPLICATION OF NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED	
				yes	
				yes	
				yes	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY - Continued				ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO: 53126.00001	
U.S. APPLICATION NO.		U.S. FILING DATE		PATENTED	
				PENDING	
				ABANDONED	
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.					
PCT APPLICATION NO.		PCT FILING DATE		U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS	
<p>POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or Agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.</p> <p>David L. Fehrman, Reg. No. 28,600; David L. Henty, Reg. No. 31,323; William J. Robinson, Reg. No. 29,430; Stuart L. Merkadeau, Reg. No. 33,262; David B. Abel Reg. No. 32,394; Hisako Muramatsu, Reg. No. 34,955; Vincent J. Belusko, Reg. No. 30,820; Minda Schechter, Reg. No. 38,296; Victor De Gyafas, Reg. No. 40,583; Wayne Smith, Reg. No. 42,160; Stefan J. Kirchanski, Reg. No. 38,568; Alma P. Levy, Reg. No. 43,751; Martin M. Noonan, Reg. No. 44,264; David T. Yang, Reg. No. 44,415; Marc A. Sockol Reg. No. 40,823; Benjamin M. Rubin, Reg. No. 44,310.</p>					
Send correspondence to		GRAHAM & JAMES LLP 600 Hansen Way Palo Alto, CA 94304-1043		Direct Phone Calls To: Marc A. Sockol: 650-856-6500	
1	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	ROMIG		PAUL	W.	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	Novato	California	United States		
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
	29 Bahama Reef	Novato	California	94949	
2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	KELLAR		ROBERT	J.	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	Napa	California	USA		
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
	2441 Flagstone Drive	Napa	California	94558	
3	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
4	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
<p>I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.</p>					
Signature Of Inventor 1		Signature Of Inventor 2		Signature Of Inventor 3	
<i>Paul W. Romig</i>		<i>R. Kellar</i>			
DATE		DATE		DATE	
February 23, 2000		February 24, 2000			